

## OUR HARRISBURG LETTER.

The Border Claims and Their Present Status—The Mining Imbroglio—The Anti-Penn Square Embargo—The Senatorial Dead-lock.

From Our Own Correspondent.

HARRISBURG, March 30, 1871.

The question of the liquidation of the border claims is now being considered by a special committee of the Senate, consisting of as able men as either party can furnish in the body. With White and Connel from the Republican side, and Bucklew and Hill from the Democratic side, to investigate and report on the subject, the public will feel assured that the issue must be fairly and most ably presented.

Last winter this measure incurred just odium because of the efforts of certain parties, supposed to be purchasers of claims, to force their payment by the State. The failure was as signal as it was just. This year the people of Chambersburg have memorialized the Legislature to consider the question and to afford them such relief as justice to themselves and to the Commonwealth requires. They did not appeal to the lobby, nor did they ask for payment. They do not claim that the State is properly liable for these losses. They acquit the State of all neglect in providing for their defense. They say that the State assumed to defend them, and appropriated an aggregate of \$7,250,000 for the purpose, much more than was actually needed, and that it organized ample forces for their protection. But they show that just when they were most exposed to incursions by the enemy the State neglected to furnish them with arms and ammunition, and in the valley in 1864, made it necessary for Pennsylvania to give her defensive troops in addition to her regular quotas already filled, to save McDowell and Hunter, and Chambersburg was burned and the border counties desolated thereby. They urge that the General Government is therefore liable, because it is responsible for the consequences of its own acts, and that the recent action of Congress fairly embraces these claims within the limits of its national liability for war damages.

In the argument before the committee by Judge Black and Colonel McClure, which was heard by a very large number of members, the position of the claimants was distinctly defined as desiring the most searching re-examination of the claims, and the defeat of all possible speculation in them. They asked the committee to select their own way of re-liquidation, and to adopt such precautions as will most effectively guard against fraud or speculation. On this point Colonel McClure was very emphatic. He said: "It is the general desire of the claimants that, however the committee may differ as to the proper measure to be adopted, they shall be able to unite in testifying that wrong, either to the Government or people, had no part in the measure, and that the revision there should be power to reduce or reject claims, but none to increase, and that assigned or purchased claims should be most carefully scrutinized, and the assignee or purchaser be required to prove satisfactory what was actually paid for the claim, and that it should be limited to that sum. He asked also that where such proof was not given the claim should be rejected."

It seems to be the general conviction of the ablest and best men of the Legislature that the General Government is unquestionably liable for these claims. Mr. Bucklew declared in the Senate, in discussing the motion to refer the memorial, that the facts made out a clear and incontestable case against the national authorities for payment; and General White intimated very strongly that such was his opinion. It is reasonably certain that the special committee will be unanimous in testifying to the integrity of whatever measure the majority may propose, and also unanimous in fixing the legal and moral responsibility for these losses upon the General Government. The report or reports, will, therefore, place this question on a basis that will command the respect and careful deliberation of all fair-minded men.

What measure the committee will report is of course not known, but it is certain that neither increased taxation, debt, or payment will be proposed. The claimants ask that their losses shall be paid out of the Treasury, which would amount to payment on them, and the State thus become the owner of the claims, to make demand, in her own name and power, upon the General Government for payment, as did Massachusetts, Maryland and other States, after the war of 1812. It is conceded generally that, while thousands of individual claimants cannot press their claims successfully before Congress, the State could do so, and thus secure to the border people restitution for their extraordinary losses, without any sacrifice by the Commonwealth. In addition to securing the payment of the claims, the State would be justly entitled to be repaid by Congress the \$500,000 already voted to Chambersburg, as that appropriation is credited on the claims.

The committee will report next week. Whatever it may propose it is certain that there will be no odor of corruption or of the lobby about it, nor will there be any attempt to raid upon the treasury for the benefit of speculators.

The great struggle between the miners and operators was brought to a close to-night by an able and exhaustive argument by Hon. L. W. Hall, President of the Board of the Reading Railroad Company, had previously presented the arguments in support of the position taken by the operators, with marked skill and ability; and it is conceded that the whole issue has been so thoroughly investigated and elucidated that all the great principles involved will be settled for all time. What action the Legislature will take is yet uncertain; but it is acknowledged that the miners are not as strong to-night as they were at the beginning of the controversy here.

The public buildings question has been one of the great topics of the week. The large and highly respectable delegation appointed to demolish the Buildings Commission before the Legislature has come, has spoken, and has gone, and it is only the truth that they have not made any impression against the existing commission. The most of the delegation went independent of the buildings, and the Legislature is unalterable in its hostility to any such measure. Others manifestly want no buildings at all, and with that sentiment there is no sympathy here, for the necessity for new buildings is admitted by every fair-minded man. I venture the prediction that the repeal bill will fail, and Mr. Connel's bill, or its main provisions, eventually become a law.

There is a dead-lock now in the Senate. The Democrats have resolved in caucus that no Senate bill shall pass the Senate until the apportionment is disposed of, and the Republican Senators have agreed in caucus that there shall be no more paring with Democrats on any question. This requires every Democrat to continue in his seat, whether sick or well, and it is believed that it willicken the majority at an early day. It is believed now that a compromise apportionment will be agreed upon within a week or ten days, and if so, the rest of the business will be hurried through.

## MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC.

The Mendelssohn Quintette Club Concert.

Last evening the Star Course of Lectures, which, under the enterprising management of Mr. T. B. Pugh, has become one of the institutions of the city, was brought to a close for the season by a concert at the Academy of Music. The special building was crowded, and the audience was enthusiastic in its approbation of the performance. The attraction was the Mendelssohn Quintette Club of Boston, assisted by Mrs. J. W. Weston. The programme was a very choice one, and the instrumental portion embracing selections from Mozart, Meyerbeer, Kreutzer, Weber, Schubert, and other composers of the highest rank. The performance throughout was thoroughly artistic, and amply justified the reputation which the Quintette Club has achieved elsewhere. The vocal portion fell to the unsupported lot of Mrs. Weston, who has capacity as a ballad singer of unusual degree. Her singing was remarkably enjoyable, and each time that she appeared she was heartily successful. Altogether the concert was a decided success, and

Mr. Pugh deserves the thanks as well as the congratulations of the public, for the attractive manner in which he has brought his lecture course to a close.

## "Frou-Frou" at the Chestnut.

Sardou's play of *Frou-Frou* was performed both at the Chestnut and Arch Street Theatres last season. Miss Laura Keane and Mrs. Drew being the representatives of the leading character. It is a picture of fashionable French society under the Second Empire, and it is not a pleasing one, notwithstanding the art with which the subject is presented. A domestic tragedy, such as *Frou-Frou* is, although it may jar upon the sensibilities of some of the auditors, points an undoubted moral, and is certainly to be preferred, if such subjects are to be treated upon the stage, to such comic performances as *East Lynne* and some others of the same class. *Frou-Frou* gives the career of a weak, vain, and frivolous woman, educated under influences calculated to develop all her worst qualities, and her downfall is as much the fault of the corrupt society in which she lives as of her own weakness. The passionate side of her nature is dormant until jealousy excites her, and then, upon suspicion the most unfounded, she takes the characteristic revenge of a vain and frivolous woman and clothes. The scene in which "Gilberte" appears suddenly to awaken to the fact that her sister has taken her place as the mistress of the household is wonderfully true to nature and wonderfully effective as a piece of dramatic art.

There will be a matinee to-morrow, and a farewell concert to-morrow evening.

AT THE CHESTNUT THEATRE last evening gave a graceful and elegant representation as "Gilberte," and in the later scenes of the play she displayed more tragic powers than we had credited her with. The performance, however, was too broad in style for a character marked by such fine lights and shades, and while her "Gilberte" is certainly pleasing, it will not rank as a work of art with the performances of Miss Keane and Mrs. Drew. Miss Follis Glover gave a beautifully refined and tender representation of the thoughtful sister "Louise," and Mr. Thorne played the part of "Henry Sartory" in a satisfactory manner, although it is not one well suited to his broad and impulsive style. The remaining characters were well sustained, and the performance as a whole was very satisfactory.

## The City Amusements.

AT THE ACADEMY OF MUSIC this evening Theodore Thomas' orchestra will give a grand concert for the benefit of Mr. Alfred Stummel, the doorkeeper, who Anna Mehlig will appear, and a very fine entertainment may be expected.

AT THE WALNUT THEATRE the spectacular pantomime of *The Three Hunchbacks* will be represented this evening.

A matinee will be given to-morrow.

AT THE CHESTNUT THEATRE Miss Fanny Davenport will have a benefit this evening, when a very fine personal "Volante," in Tom's comedy of *The Housekeeper*, Mr. Davenport will appear as "Rolando." Mrs. Davenport also, and Miss Thorne as "Duke Aranda," and Miss Glover as "Zany."

The performance will conclude with the comedietta of *Delicate Ground*.

There will be a matinee performance of *Frou-Frou* to-morrow.

Mr. Peter Abel, the business manager, will have a benefit on the 14th of April, when a fine bill will be presented.

AT THE ARCH LOTS will appear this evening as "Wyldestone," in Falconer's drama of *Heart's Ease*, a matinee.

AT THE MUSEUM, Ninth and Arch streets, the fairy spectacle of *Cherry and Fair Star* will be performed this evening. A matinee will be given to-morrow.

AT THE AMERICAN a family performance will be given this evening. A family matinee to-morrow.

## CITY ITEMS.

"WHAT HAVE YOU TAKEN FOR IT?" said Mrs. Laura Thompson to her friend Miss Lake, referring to a sick headache with which the young lady was continually afflicted. "Oh," said Miss Lake, "I've taken cathartic pills enough to load a cannon." "Discard them," said her friend, "and try my medicine, PLANTATION BITTERS. Bile is the cause of your difficulty; and I know by experience the Bitters are a certain cure for biliousness."

Miss Lake adopted Mrs. Thompson's advice, and was cured within a fortnight. She is now at the Metropolitan Hotel, and will confirm this statement.

WHITCOMB'S ASTHMA REMEDY—Sure cure.

Mr. WILLIAM W. CASSIDY, the jeweler at No. 3 South Second street, has one of the largest and most attractive stocks of all kinds of Jewelry and Silverware in the city. He has also on hand a fine assortment of fine American Western Watches. Those who purchase at this store at the present time are certain to get the worth of their money.

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THE ORIGINAL ENGLISH MILTON GOLD JEWELRY, sold in this city only at No. 1022 Chestnut street, cannot be detected from pure gold except by weight. Remember this fact.

BUNNETT'S FLORENCE—An exquisite perfume.

## MARRIED.

KELLY—THOMPSON.—On the 20th instant, by the Rev. Charles W. Shields, D.D., and the Rev. James H. Mason Knox, D.D., Mr. EDWARD SMITH KELLY to Miss CORNELIA H., daughter of the late Judge Oswald Thompson, both of this city.

SCOTT—KILPATRICK.—On the evening of February 9, by Rev. W. W. Barr, Mr. WILLIAM SCOTT and Miss MARY ANN KILPATRICK, both of this city.

FAIRBANKS.—Born, Feb. 15, 1871, to the Rev. Samuel Durbin, Mr. JOHN A. FAIRBANKS to Miss MARY A. BOOTH, both of this city.

## DIED.

BLOXOM.—On 26th instant, PHILIP A. AMANDA, wife of Captain John Bloxom, and daughter of Thomas and Ann M. Dutch, aged 33 years.

The relatives and friends of the family are respectfully invited to attend the funeral, from the residence of her parents, No. 36 Chestnut street, on Sunday afternoon, at 1 o'clock. To proceed to Rosebud Church, N. Y.

COWELL.—On the 26th instant, REBECCA J., wife of Charles Cowell, aged 44 years and 11 months.

The relatives and friends of the family are respectfully invited to attend her funeral, from the residence of her husband, No. 112 S. Fourth street, Camden, N. J., on Saturday April 1, at 8 o'clock. To proceed to Fairview M. E. Church.

DELLINGER.—On the 29th instant, WILLIAM J. DELLINGER, aged 61 years.

The relatives and male friends are invited to attend the funeral, from his late residence, No. 337 S. Twenty-first street, on Monday, 4th of April, at 9 o'clock. Funeral services at St. John's Church, Thirtieth street, above Chestnut, at 10 o'clock.

GANTLEY.—On the 29th instant, ANNE, daughter of Bridget and the late Thomas Gantley, aged 19 years.

The relatives and friends of the family are respectfully invited to attend the funeral, from the residence of her mother, No. 7 Gradon street, between Fifteenth and Sixteenth, above Race, on Saturday morning, at 8 o'clock.

MOWILL.—On the evening of the 29th instant, at his residence in this city, GEORGE W. MOWILL, in the 45th year of his age.

The relatives and friends of the family are respectfully invited to attend the funeral, from his late residence, No. 1634 Green street, on Saturday, at 9 o'clock.

NATT.—On Thursday morning, March 29, 1871, of pneumonia, JOSEPH S. NATT, aged 63 years.

The relatives and friends of the family, also, Montgomery Lodge, No. 19, A. Y. M., and his Masonic brethren, generally, are respectfully invited to attend the funeral, from the residence of his brother-in-law, John G. Ford, No. 259 N. Sixteenth street, on Monday afternoon, April 3, at 9 o'clock. Interment at Laurel Hill.

WEST.—At Crosswicks, N. J., on the 30th instant, after a lingering illness, CHARLES L. WEST, aged 34 years.

His relatives and male friends are invited to attend his funeral, from the residence of his father, Jacob West, near Crosswicks, on Saturday, April 1, at 10 o'clock A. M.

WOODWARD.—On the 30th instant, ELIZABETH, relict of the late Thomas Woodward, aged 73 years.

The relatives and friends of the family are respectfully invited to attend the funeral, on Monday morning, 3d April, at 9 o'clock, from her son-in-law's residence, No. 1905 Poplar street. To proceed to Mount Moriah Cemetery.

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We are now selling, and unhesitatingly recommend, as a profitable and perfectly safe investment, the First Mortgage Land Grant Gold Bonds of the Northern Pacific Railroad Company. They have 30 years to run, bear seven and three-tenths per cent. gold interest (more than 5 per cent. currency), and are secured by first and only mortgage on the ENTIRE ROAD AND ITS EQUIPMENTS, and also on

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All marketable Stocks and Bonds will be received at their highest current price in exchange for Northern Pacific Seven-Thirties. EXPRESS CHARGES on Money or Bonds received, and on Seven-Thirties sent in return, will be paid by the Financial Agents. Agencies for the sale of this loan are established in nearly every city and important town throughout the United States and Canada. Full information, maps, etc., can be obtained on application at any agency, or from the undersigned.

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